



**Iowa Council for Early ACCESS  
Minutes  
January 19, 2007**

**Members Attending:**

Lana Michelson  
Barb Merrill  
Carolyn Nelson  
Debra Sixta  
Gina Greene  
Glenn Baughman  
Jan Mackey  
Jane Borst  
Andrew Hall  
Kelly Hancock  
Kyla Alba  
David Van Horn

Mary Jane Brotherson  
LaMark Combs  
Mary Nelson  
Maureen Schletzbaum  
Royann Mraz  
Scott Beall  
Troy McCarthy  
Angela Burke Boston  
Pablo Quintanilla  
Carrie Sodders  
Mary Steven  
Pam Noel

**Members Excused**

Michael Baldwin  
Shanell Wagner  
Dan Ellsberry  
Michael Fay  
Jeff Lobas  
Pamela Parker

**Staff Attending**

Shelly Ackermann  
Dann Stevens  
Julie Curry  
Kelly Schulte  
Lisa Sharp  
Jeannie Cox

**Handouts:**

ICEA Committees 2006-07  
2006 Iowa Party C Survey  
Raw Data handout for ICEA  
Individualized Family Service Plan Intake  
Phase 1-A Report Demographic Information  
Worksheets for Finance Plan- Phase I-A

### **Call to Order**

Troy McCarthy called the meeting to order.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The November minutes were approved with corrections.

### **Guest Speaker:**

Gina Greene presented an overview of the Early ACCESS system using a “truck analogy”.

### **Executive Committee Update – Troy McCarthy**

- The Annual Performance Report (APR) is due Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Part C Regulations are not out yet.
- The Memorandum of Agreement will be reviewed and renewed.
- The minutes of the council and Executive meetings can be found on the Early ACCESS website under Advisory Group - <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/633/1016/1/2/>

### **Lead Agency Update – Lana Michelson**

- Child Find-The count for Part C Birth to three went up 344 children this year.
- Child Find was also very productive for the Birth to One count—that increased by 100 children, compared to 30 children last year.
- Early ACCESS is now serving 2932 families this year. The numbers have consistently increased yet the resources to finance services are not increasing.
- The Grant Application is due April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Finance discussion-Part C has only \$3.7 million in its budget, so some Part B monies will be used to pay for Part C administrative costs.
- The “Offer” is so important at this time because the State of Iowa has not ever financed Part C. The Council members can contact their constituencies to get the word out and contact their legislators to support this bill. “Parent Stories” can be very powerful to share with legislators. Information will be shared about the “Offer”.

### **Family Survey – Lisa Sharp**

The Family Survey data were recalculated by our North Central Regional Resource Center to align with Part B Family Survey percentages. The new

numbers are: Early Intervention services have helped the family: A. Know their rights at 89.9%; B. Effectively communicate children's needs at 89.2%; and C. Help their children develop and learn 90.5%. A new six –year new target was discussed and agreed upon; A. 93%, B. 92% and C. 94%.

There was a discussion regarding Parents as Presenters training. The next workshop will be September 7 & 8, 2007.

### **Framework for Early ACCESS Finance – Julie Curry and Dann Stevens:**

The council compared and analyzed Iowa and national data regarding the status of young children and their families. This is the first phase of data analysis that the council will do in Iowa's effort to design a finance system for the Early ACCESS system. Data were provided to assist in answering specific questions as follows:

#### **Phase 1-A Report – Demographic Information: Step 1A**

Question 1 – What do we know about infants and toddlers in Iowa and the nation that would affect the EA system? Birth rate is not as high as the national average.

Question 2 – Are we identifying, evaluating and serving all eligible children?

Question 3 -- What do we know about Early Intervention Services that will affect Early ACCESS resources/financing?

Questions and conclusions formulated by the small groups were recorded and will be compiled for future use. One significant conclusion was Iowa's birth rate is at a lower rate than other states, which affects federal funding. Question #4 of Phase 1A will be analyzed at the March meeting along with fiscal resource data (IB) and Political-Economic context information (IC).

**Shelley Ackermann – Web based IFSP** – We need stakeholders groups (the Council) to look at Web based IFSP template. After the stakeholders, it will go to the Information Management System to meet requirements. There was discussion regarding this process and the full use of it on the web site. Shelley would like the Council to look the Web based IFSP template and is asking for constructive comments to be sent to Jeannie by the end of next Friday, January 26, 2007.

### **Committee Reports -**

Parent – Jan Mackey will chair again.

By laws – Deb Sixta will chair.

Nominating – Mary Stevens will chair.

Membership – Kelly Hancock will chair. Scott Beall will ask his father to be a part of the ICEA council. His father is a State Senator.

Public Policy – Carolyn Nelson will chair.

Governor's Report – Still needs to appoint a chair.

### **Sharing**

Kyla Alba stated that the PEC conference will be held on Feb. 26, 27. This year the conference will focus on birth to five years old. Please consider attending, the registration fee of \$30 will be waived. The conference is held in Ames at the Scheman building on the Iowa State Campus.

Julie Curry went to Texas to visit her sister and did some bird watching, and was surprised by an encounter with alligators.

Glenn Baughman retired in November. He has friends whose child has been diagnosed with Angelman Syndrome. The disorder is discovered as the child develops. The parents would like information on support groups.

Kelly Schulte –There will be an Early Childhood Day on the Hill, Feb. 7. There is no cost to register. More information will be sent. Please let your legislators know you will be attending.

Mary Jane Brotherson shared about the Leadership Program that is funded by the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services to prepare doctoral-level leadership personnel in the area of early childhood special education (ECSE). Doctoral students will attend Iowa State University, both full time and part-time. The program will cover tuition and stipend. This could build strong leadership in early childhood across Iowa.

The Children and Family Policy Center and the Early Childhood subcommittee will be Feb.1. They will meet with legislators and will focus on early childhood. They would like several parents to come to the legislation to discuss Early ACCESS. A Day on the Hill will be February 7.

The next council meeting will be March 16, 2007, 10:00am to 3:00pm at Stoney Creek Inn.

Meeting Adjourned.